



Customer Service
Above and Beyond

Fearey's First Edition

<i>Removal of Junk Cars</i>	2
<i>Floodway Bridge</i>	2
<i>Fireworks Taskforce</i>	2
<i>Riverside Park Renovations</i>	3
<i>New fire stations in District VI</i>	3
<i>Central Rail Corridor</i>	4
<i>Tips to keep our Water Clean</i>	4

The complaints that I receive more often than any others have to do with traffic. Things such as too much traffic, speeding traffic, and drivers disobeying the "rules of the road" seem to be at the top of people's minds -- and rightly so. People worry about their safety and about the safety of their families.

In December of 2002, the Wichita Police Department finished their Comprehensive Traffic Plan. Part of the development of this plan included a citizen survey. Over 5000 replies to the survey were received. The highest priorities for citizens included vehicles running red lights, vehicles speeding on major thoroughfares, vehicles speeding through school zones, and drivers who operate a vehicle under the influence of alcohol or drugs. The second highest priorities included vehicles speeding through residential streets, vehicles that tailgate the vehicle in front of them, drivers that are inattentive, and vehicles failing to yield right of way during turns.

Identifying the problems, however, is the easy part. The hard part is figuring out how to fix the problem. The City of Wichita Police Department does an excellent job in responding to citizen com-

plaints, setting up traffic enforcement times in neighborhoods, and working with neighborhoods to develop traffic calming solutions.



Unfortunately this is not always enough. There comes a time when citizens need to take responsibility for their actions and their driving habits. The city cannot put enough officers on the street to catch everyone who is breaking a traffic law. The city cannot legislate respect for the law and caring for one's neighbors. Everyone must take it upon themselves to be sure they obey all of the traffic laws -- even if that means leaving your house a little earlier or arriving at a meeting a couple of minutes late. We must teach our young people to have respect for the laws and encourage our friends and neighbors to drive with respect and courtesy. Our actions when on the road truly are a matter of life and death.

Be Careful Out There,
Sharon

*Evergreen Neighborhood
City Hall*

2700 N. Woodland Suite D
Wichita, Ks 67204
Phone: 316-303-8042
Fax: 316-303-8049

WE'RE ON THE WEB
WWW.WICHITA.GOV

Historic Preservation Tax Incentives Available for Wichita

The Federal Historic Preservation Tax Incentives Program is one of the nation's most successful and cost-effective community revitalization programs. The program fosters private sector rehabilitation of historic buildings and promotes economic revitalization. It also provides a strong alternative to government ownership and management of such historic properties. The tax incentives are available for buildings that are national Historic Landmarks, that are listed in the national Register, and that contribute to national Register Historic Districts and certain local districts. Properties must be income producing and must be rehabilitated according to standards set by the Secretary of the Interior.

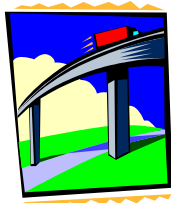
Wichita's Old Town District has recently met the criteria for listing in the national Register of Historic Places for purposes of the Tax Reform Act of 1986. Due to this designation, individual property owners who are rehabilitating buildings within this district can qualify for the Federal and State tax incentives for historic preservation by completing the Historic Preservation Certification Application. (Not for profit organizations are eligible only for the state tax credits.) Application forms and assistance with the application are available through the Historic Preservation Office of the Metropolitan Area Planning Department.

Since 1976, the Historic preservation Tax Incentives have produced the following benefits for the nation: More than 27,000 historic properties have been rehabilitated and saved, and the tax incentives have stimulated private rehabilitation of over \$18 billion. More than 149,000 housing units rehabilitated and 75,000 housing units created, of which over 30,000 are low and moderate-income units

Environmental Health received an EPA grant

Environmental health received an EPA grant that was earmarked for providing information to River Festival goers on various aspects of the Arkansas River water quality. Knowledgeable staff, identified by eye catching t-shirts, mingled with the crowd at various events providing information to citizens who had have questions about water quality, river studies, etc. The grant was for \$3,500. staff distributed plastic sacks to encourage fest goers to "pack it in and pack it out" regarding their trash, beverage containers, etc.

Floodway Bridge



At the April 1, 2003, City Council meeting, the council approved the acquisition of approximately 5.44 acres of land located at 2920 N. West Street. This is the right-of-way west of the Floodway that is needed to link the proposed bridge from the east side along 25th Street to 29th Street on the west side of the floodway. The bridge project is scheduled in the Capital Improvements Program for 2002/2007.

Fireworks Task Force

A Fireworks Task Force has been appointed to study the issues involving fireworks.

David Pendegraft and Bob Schreck from the District VI

Advisory Board serve on the committee. The study of the committee will focus on public safety, enforcement, education and community acceptance. When the Task Force completes its study, the finding will be presented to the City Council for final action on their recommendations.



Removal of Junk Cars



Removal of junk cars from neighborhoods will soon be at an all time high as a result of the Joint Code Enforcement Initiative actions and the implementation of the council's recently approved contract with 8 local towing companies for the removal of these cars through the nuisance abatement process. Neighborhood improvement through the enforcement and removal of junk cars has long been a priority for many citizens and increased activity in this area has resulted in a dramatic increase in the

number of junk car cases generated by Police, OCI, and Environmental Health. This enforcement activity and the need for a more effective and efficient procedure to deal with nuisance junk cars on private property has resulted in the approximately 350 junked cars on private property that are now eligible for towing. City staff has met with the newly contracted wrecking companies to begin the process of removing these cars from neighborhoods. In addition, information will be provided to the public about this initial effort to reduce this backlog of cars in need of removal. It is estimated that approximately 10 inoperable cars a day will be hauled starting in late March or early April or may to reduce this initial backlog of cars.

Art Museum Cleanup Underway

The Art Museum renovations are winding down. Before the grand opening in June, art has to be installed and displayed, including a massive blown-glass assemblage that will be suspended in the three-story entryway. Before the glasswork can be hung, floors and walls, sills (etc.) must be thoroughly cleaned so that dust will not settle on it or other newly installed art. Public works custodial staff time concentrated on the Art Museum cleanup in March and early April. Some non-custodial employees volunteered for the effort as well, to get a "sneak preview" of the new facility.

Ozone: What You Can Do To Help

The Wichita Area Chamber of Commerce reported in their April, 2003 - impact publication that “the Wichita area is dangerously close to being out of compliance with the federal Clean Air Act standard for ‘ground level’ ozone.” They went on to make some suggestions that all of us can do to help reduce the ground level ozone. These suggestions include the following:

- Refuel when it’s cool – after 6pm
- Stop fueling at the first automatic click-off – don’t top off
- Mow after 6pm
- Keep all small engines properly tuned
- Keep caps on gas cans and solvent containers
- Conserve electricity by keeping things turned off when not in use
- Keep your car well maintained and your tires properly inflated
- Don’t leave your car idling
- Carpool, use public transportation, or combine your errands into one trip
- Use those two things at the end of your legs to take you where you need to go – being more fit along with saving on gas will be a benefit of walking or biking



Ozone: What You Can Do To Help

New Fire Stations in District VI

April 26, 2003, brought the ribbon cutting ceremony for the relocated Fire Station #7 just north of the corner of Coolidge and 21st Street. The fire station moved to its new building from the corner of St. Paul and 13th Street. The old building at 2828 W. 13th Street (along with 5 other stations throughout the city) has been declared access by the City Council. The council also approved the disposition of the property unless it is needed for City

usage. If you know anyone who has always wanted to live in a fire station, this could be his or her chance.

Representatives from the Fire Department will be at the June 2, 2003, DAB VI meeting to update the Board and answer questions about the relocation.

The new Fire Station on North 42nd Street is nearing completion. It will be dedicated sometime in May.



Representatives from the Fire Department will be at the June 2, 2003, DAB VI meeting to update the Board and answer questions about



They are expecting to complete their work by December 31, 2003

Update on Riverside Park Renovations

Caro Construction has constructed the handicapped ramp at Park Villa and work is almost complete. The portion of the project including the streets and roundabouts was bid with Cornejo Construction being the low bidder. This work should be complete by June 30. Robl Construction was the approved low bidder for the remainder of the project.

They are expecting to complete their work by December 31, 2003. Although the bids did not come in low enough to fund all the work that was slated for this phase of park improvements, the council did approve the recommendation to allocate \$450,000 to the Riverside Park project from the project to convert Main Street from Douglas to Murdock from a one way to a two-way street.

Central Rail Corridor

Ferrell Street

Ferrell Street north of 14th (on the west side of the Little Arkansas River, north of Minisa Park) was closed to through-traffic on Tuesday, April 29, due to concerns about the structural integrity of the pavement over a sanitary sewer vault below the street. The 12-foot square, 15-foot deep vault dates back to the 1920's. Exposure to sewer gases for 75-80 years has corroded the reinforcing steel in the concrete paving above the vault, weakening the pavement.

Water & Sewer Department staff are in the process of scheduling a project to replace the vault. Fewer than 5 residences have access from this segment of Ferrell. Those residents can continue to use Ferrell, but general traffic will not be allowed. Concrete 'Jersey' barriers will be installed in place of the wooden barricades.



At the March 18 Council meeting, the closure of 9th Street, 10th Street, 11th Street, and 15th Street where they intersect with the BNSF railroad was approved. This is one of the first steps to beginning construction on the new, elevated Cen-

tral Rail Corridor. This elevated railway will have several advantages for both the city at large and the Historic Midtown neighborhood. Traffic will be able to move through this part of town without having to stop for trains. This helps protect our air quality by cutting down on the amount of time engines have to idle while waiting for tracks to clear. It will probably also help our sanity as we can just drive right under those slow moving trains. An added benefit to the neighborhood is that it should be much quieter. The new continuous tracks will cut down on much of the "click clack" noise and the engineers won't have to blow their whistles to warn traffic of their approach. Although the project is not expected to be complete until sometime in 2004 or 2005, state funding is still secure at this time, and the project is on schedule.

Tips to Keep Our Water Clean!

- Pick up after your pets
- Maintain your vehicles to prevent leaks of automotive fluids
- Use commercial car washes. They are more efficient and they have mud traps that catch oil and sediment.
- Follow the directions on insecticides and herbicides very carefully
- Use slow release fertilizers
- Use compost and natural fertilizers and alternative pesticides when you can
- Pull weeds by hand as an alternative to chemicals
- Don't apply lawn and garden chemicals if rain is predicted
- Plant native grasses to reduce the need for lawn chemicals
- Use soil barriers to stop erosion during grass planting, gardening and construction
- Pick up litter (www.kab.org)
- Dispose of small business and household hazardous waste properly.
Call 660-7464 for more information
- If you have a septic tank, be sure that it works properly



(<http://www.wichita.gov/CityOffices/Health/Environmental/WaterQual/>)